fantastically carved upon it with a knife: he was so forlorn, that his dimensions to any thick sight were invincible [9]: he was the very Genius of famine: yet lecherous as a monkey, and the whores called him—mandrake [1]: he came ever in the rear-ward

[9]—were INVINCIBLE ·] That is, could not be *mastered* by any thick sight. Mr. Rowe and the other modern editors read, *invisible*. MALONE.

Invincible cannot possibly be the true reading: invincible *to* not being English: for whoever wrote or said—not be conquered *to*?

Invincible is the usual phrase: though Shakspeare in Much Ado About Nothing, makes Don Pedro say "I would have thought her spirit had been *invincible against* all assaults of affection." a sufficient proof that he would not have written "*invincible to* a thick sight." STEEVENS.

We have already had in these plays—guilty to self wrong, interest *to* the state, and a multitude of other instances of phraseology which seem strange to us now. See the Essay on Shakspeare's Phraseology. MALONE.

Let us apply Mr. Steevens's process of translation to *invisible*, i. e. *cannot be seen to*, and it will be equally objectionable. The fact is, these verbal adjectives will admit of either conjunction. An object is perceived *to*, but it is perceptible either *by* or *to* the sight. We are wounded *by* something: but Coriolanus, vol. xiv. p. 209, wishes that his son may prove *to* shame *invulnerable*.

Bo SWELL.

[1] — call'd him—MANDRAKE ·] This appellation will be somewhat illustrated by the following passage in Caltha Poetarum, or the Bumble Bee, composed by T. Cutwode, Esquyre, 1599. This book was commanded by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London to b*e burnt at Stationers' Hall in the 41st year of Queen Elizabeth:

" Upon the place and ground where Caltha grew
" A mightie *mandrag* there did Venus plant:
" An object for faire Primula to view
** Resembling man from thighs unto the shank." &c.

The rest of the description might prove yet further explanatory; but on some subjects silence is Jess

reprehensible than information.

In the age of Shakspeare, however, (as I learn from Thomas Lupton's Third Booke of Notable Thinges, 4to. bl. l.) it was customary "to make *counterfeat mandrag* which is sold by deceyuers for much money." Out of the great double root of briony (by means of a process not worth transcribing) they produced the kind of priapic idol to which Shallow has been compared. STEEVENS.

Bullein, in his Bullwark of Defence against all Sicknesse, &c.